

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 VA-01 HUD-02 /015 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:ECHULEN:KA

APPROVED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK

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P 062008Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 166911

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SWEL, MGEN, RP

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION VA HOSPITALIZATION

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUD/INDEPENDENT  
AGENCIES REPORT REFERRED TO SEPTTEL.

GRANTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

1976 APPROPRIATION.....	\$2,100,000
ESTIMATE, 1977.....	\$2,100,000
HOUSE ALLOWANCE.....	\$2,100,000
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.....	500,000

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR  
GRANTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH IS  
\$1,600,000 BELOW THE BUDGET REQUEST AND THE HOUSE  
ALLOWANCE.

PUBLIC LAW 80-865, APPROVED JULY 1, 1948, ESTABLISHED THE  
GRANTS PROGRAM TO ASSIST THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
IN PAYING FOR THE HOSPITALIZATION OF PHILIPPINE COMMON-  
WEALTH ARMY VETERANS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES  
INCURRED WHILE SERVING WITH U.S. ARMED FORCES. THE LAW HAS  
BEEN EXTENDED AND EXPANDED FROM TIME TO TIME. PUBLIC LAW  
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89-612 AUTHORIZED AN EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE

PHILIPPINE VETERANS WITH NONSERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

A GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REPORT ON THIS PROGRAM DATED AUGUST 4, 1975 POINTED OUT THAT IN FISCAL YEAR 1974, 96 PERCENT OF THE PATIENT DAYS CHARGED AGAINST THE FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FROM VA APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN MANILA, THE MAJOR TREATMENT FACILITY, WERE FOR NONSERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES. THE REPORT WENT ON TO QUOTE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WHEN THE CURRENT EXTENSION WAS BEING CONSIDERED:

"ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN THE U.S. POSITION THROUGHOUT THAT THE PHILIPPINE GOVT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE EXPECTED TO ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO ACKNOWLEDGE A CERTAIN MORAL OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE CARE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED FILIPINO VETERANS..."

THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THIS RECORD AMPLY JUSTIFIES A REDUCTION IN FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM OF \$1,600,000. THE \$500,000 PROVIDED SHOULD BE AMPLE TO CARE FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES. THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO DO MORE. ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEDICAL CARE, VETERANS GROUPS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, APPROPRIATIONS, HOSPITALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE166911  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** ECHULEN:KA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760260-0556  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 FEB 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by schwenja>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SWEL, EGEN, RP, US  
**To:** MANILA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006